

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A transaction method comprising the steps of:

(a) assigning a first identifier to transaction information sent from a buyer's terminal, the transaction information relating to a transaction;

5 (b) sending the first identifier to said buyer's terminal and sending a second identifier associated with the first identifier and a part of the transaction information to a vendor's terminal;

10 (c) sending a notification to said buyer's terminal in response to an instruction indicating that goods, to which the second identifier is attached, have been delivered to a retail store, the goods being obtained by referencing the part of the transaction information and being sold in the transaction;

15 (d) checking to see if there is a correspondence between the identifiers upon receiving the first identifier received by a buyer and the second identifier attached to the delivered goods;

20 (e) outputting an instruction allowing the delivered goods to be passed to the buyer if there is the correspondence; and

(f) sending an instruction requesting to transfer an amount for the goods from a buyer's account to a predetermined account.

2. The transaction method as defined by claim 1 wherein at least

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one of sending the first identifier, sending the second identifier, sending the part of the transaction information, and sending the notification is done via electronic mail.

3. A transaction apparatus comprising:

(a) means for assigning a first identifier, termed as "first identifier", to transaction information sent from a buyer's terminal, the transaction information relating to a transaction;

(b) means for sending the first identifier to said buyer's terminal and for sending a second identifier associated with the first identifier and a part of the transaction information to a vendor's terminal;

(c) means for sending a notification to said buyer's terminal in response to an instruction indicating that goods, to which the second identifier is attached, have been delivered to a retail store, the goods being obtained by referencing the part of the transaction information and being sold in the transaction;

(d) means for checking to see if there is a correspondence between the first identifiers upon receiving the identifier received by a buyer and the second identifier attached to the delivered goods;

(e) means for outputting an instruction allowing the delivered goods to be passed to the buyer if there is the correspondence; and

(f) means for sending an instruction requesting to transfer an amount for the goods from a predetermined account to a vendor's account.

4. The transaction apparatus as defined by claim 3 wherein said means for sending an instruction requesting to transfer the amount for the goods to the vendor's account sends an instruction to request to transfer the amount for goods from an account of a retail store specified by the buyer to the vendor's account.

5. The transaction apparatus as defined by claim 3 wherein said means for sending an instruction requesting to transfer the amount for the goods to the vendor's account sends an instruction to request to transfer the amount for the goods from an account of a delivery service provider to the vendor's account, the delivery service provider delivering the goods.

6. A transaction method comprising the steps of:

(a) assigning a first identifier to transaction information sent from a buyer's terminal, the transaction information relating to a transaction;

(b) sending the first identifier to said buyer's terminal and sending a second identifier associated with the first identifier and a part of the transaction information to a vendor's terminal;

(c) attaching, by a vendor, the second identifier to goods which is obtained by referencing the part of the transaction information and which will be sold in the

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transaction;

(d) passing the goods, via a retail store or directly, to a delivery service provider;

15 (e) searching for, by the delivery service provider, a retail store specified by a buyer and delivering the goods to the retail store;

20 (f) sending a notification to said buyer's terminal in response to the second identifier entered from a terminal at the retail store, the second identifier being attached to the goods;

(g) checking to see if there is a correspondence between the first identifier recorded on a recording medium taken by a buyer and the second identifier attached to the delivered goods;

25 (h) passing the delivered goods to the buyer if there is the correspondence; and

(i) transferring an amount for the delivered goods from a buyer's account to a vendor's account.

7. A transaction method comprising the steps of:

(a) assigning a first identifier to transaction information sent from a buyer's terminal, the transaction information relating to a transaction;

5 (b) sending the first identifier to said buyer's terminal and sending a second identifier associated with the first identifier and a part of the transaction information to a vendor's terminal;

(c) attaching, by a vendor, the second identifier to

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10 goods which is obtained by referencing the part of the  
transaction information and which will be sold in the  
transaction;

(d) passing the goods, via a retail store or directly,  
to a delivery service provider;

15 (e) searching for, by the delivery service provider, a  
buyer and delivering the goods to a buyer; and

(f) checking to see if there is a correspondence between  
the first identifier held by the buyer and the second identifier  
attached to the delivered goods and, if there is the  
20 correspondence, passing the delivered goods to the buyer, and  
giving an instruction, via a portable terminal, to transfer an  
amount for the delivered goods from a delivery service  
provider's account to a vendor's account.

8. A transaction method comprising the steps of:

(a) assigning a first identifier to transaction  
information sent from a buyer's terminal, the transaction  
information relating to a transaction;

5 (b) sending the first identifier to said buyer's  
terminal;

(c) sending a second identifier associated with the  
first identifier and a part of the transaction information to  
a vendor's terminal;

10 (d) sending a notification to said buyer's terminal in  
response to an instruction indicating that goods, to which the

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second identifier is attached, have been delivered to a retail store, the goods being obtained by referencing the part of the transaction information and being sold in the transaction;

15           (e) accepting the first identifier received by a buyer and the second identifier attached to the delivered goods and checking to see if there is a correspondence between the first and second identifiers; and

20           (f) outputting an instruction allowing the delivered goods to be passed to the buyer if there is the correspondence.

9. A transaction apparatus comprising:

          (a) means for assigning a first identifier to transaction information sent from a buyer's terminal, the transaction information relating to a transaction;

5           (b) means for sending the first identifier to said buyer's terminal;

          (c) means for sending a second identifier associated with the first identifier and a part of the transaction information to a vendor's terminal;

10           (d) means for sending a notification to said buyer's terminal in response to an instruction indicating that goods, to which the second identifier is attached, have been delivered to a retail store, the goods being obtained by referencing the part of the transaction information and being sold in the  
15 transaction;

          (e) means for accepting the first identifier received

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by a buyer and the second identifier attached to the delivered goods and checking to see if there is a correspondence between the first and second identifiers; and

20 (f) means for outputting an instruction allowing the delivered goods to be passed to the buyer if there is the correspondence.

10. A transaction method comprising the steps of:

(a) assigning a first identifier to transaction information sent from a buyer's terminal, the transaction information relating to a transaction;

5 (b) sending the first identifier to said buyer's terminal;

(c) sending a second identifier associated with the first identifier and a part of the transaction information to a vendor's terminal;

10 (d) attaching, by a vendor, the second identifier to goods which is obtained by referencing the part of the transaction information and which will be sold in the transaction;

15 (e) passing the goods, via a retail store or directly, to a delivery service provider;

(f) searching for, by the delivery service provider, a retail store specified by a buyer and delivering the goods to the retail store;

(g) sending a notification to said buyer's terminal in

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20 response to the second identifier entered from a terminal at the  
retail store, the second identifier being attached to the goods;

(h) checking to see if there is a correspondence between  
the first identifier recorded on a recording medium taken by a  
buyer and the second identifier attached to the delivered goods;

25 and

(i) passing the delivered goods to the buyer if there  
is the correspondence.

11. A transaction method comprising the steps of:

(a) assigning a first identifier to transaction  
information sent from a buyer's terminal, the transaction  
information relating to a transaction;

5 (b) sending the first identifier to said buyer's  
terminal;

(c) sending a second identifier associated with the  
first identifier and a part of the transaction information to  
a vendor's terminal;

10 (d) attaching, by a vendor, the second identifier to  
goods which is obtained by referencing the part of the  
transaction information and which will be sold in the  
transaction;

(e) passing the goods, via a retail store or directly,  
15 to a delivery service provider; and

(f) searching for, by the delivery service provider, a  
buyer and delivering the goods to the buyer.

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12. The transaction method as defined by claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

(j) receiving the first identifier, a name of goods to be returned, and a reason for returning the goods from the buyer's terminal to send the name of the goods to be returned and the reason for returning the goods to the vendor's terminal when the buyer requests to return the goods during a cooling-off period after the transaction is completed and before the buyer pays for the goods;

10 (k) extending the cooling-off period;

(l) sending a notification to the vendor's terminal in response to an instruction indicating that the goods to be returned has been delivered to a vendor-specified retail store, the first identifier being attached by the buyer to the goods to be returned;

(m) accepting the second identifier received by the vendor and the first identifier attached to the goods to be returned to check to see if there is a correspondence between the identifiers; and

20 (n) outputting an instruction allowing the delivered goods, which will be returned, to be passed to the vendor if there is the correspondence.

13. The transaction method as defined by claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

(j) receiving the first identifier, a name of goods to

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be returned, and a reason for returning the goods from the  
5 buyer's terminal to send the name of the goods to be returned  
and the reason for returning the goods to the vendor's terminal  
when the buyer requests to return the goods during a cooling-off  
period after the transaction is completed and before the buyer  
pays for the goods;

10 (k) extending the cooling-off period;

(l) sending a notification to the vendor's terminal in  
response to an instruction indicating that the goods to be  
returned has been delivered to a vendor-specified retail store,  
the first identifier being attached by the buyer to the goods  
15 to be returned;

(m) accepting the second identifier received by the  
vendor and the first identifier attached to the goods to be  
returned to check to see if there is a correspondence between  
the identifiers; and

20 (n) outputting an instruction allowing the delivered  
goods, which will be returned, to be passed to the vendor if there  
is the correspondence.

14. The transaction method as defined by claim 10, further  
comprising the steps of:

(j) receiving the first identifier, a name of goods to  
be returned, and a reason for returning the goods from the  
5 buyer's terminal to send the name of the goods to be returned  
and the reason for returning the goods to the vendor's terminal

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when the buyer requests to return the goods during a cooling-off period after the transaction is completed and before the buyer pays for the goods;

10 (k) extending the cooling-off period;

(l) sending a notification to the vendor's terminal in response to an instruction indicating that the goods to be returned has been delivered to a vendor-specified retail store, the first identifier being attached by the buyer to the goods to be returned;

(m) accepting the second identifier received by the vendor and the first identifier attached to the goods to be returned to check to see if there is a correspondence between the identifiers; and

20 (n) outputting an instruction allowing the delivered goods, which will be returned, to be passed to the vendor if there is the correspondence.

15. The transaction method as defined by claim 1, further comprising the step of:

preventing the information from being searched for using the first identifier or the second identifier when the transaction is completed.

16. The transaction method as defined by claim 8,

wherein said step of sending the first identifier to the buyer's terminal comprises also sending an instruction to pay the amount for the goods into the predetermined account, and

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5            wherein said step of sending the second identifier and  
the part of the transaction information to the vendor's terminal  
receives a payment completion notification from a banking  
terminal at a predetermined bank in which the amount for the  
goods has been paid into the predetermined account under a name  
10 of the first identifier to send the payment completion  
notification, the second identifier, and the part of the  
transaction information to the vendor's terminal.

17. The transaction method as defined by claim 10,

          wherein said step of sending the first identifier to the  
buyer's terminal comprises also sending an instruction to pay  
the amount for the goods into the predetermined account, and

5            wherein said step of sending the second identifier and  
the part of the transaction information to the vendor's terminal  
receives a payment completion notification from a banking  
terminal at a predetermined bank in which the amount for the  
goods has been paid into the predetermined account under a name  
10 of the first identifier to send the payment completion  
notification, the second identifier, and the part of the  
transaction information to the vendor's terminal.

18. The transaction method as defined by claim 1, wherein the  
first identifier received by the buyer or the second identifier  
received by the vendor is a printed identifier of the identifier  
or the second identifier displayed on the buyer's terminal or  
5 the vendor's terminal.

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20. The transaction apparatus as defined by claim 3, further comprising:

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21. The transaction apparatus as defined by claim 9, further

comprising:

(j) means for receiving the first identifier, a name of goods to be returned, and a reason for returning the goods from the buyer's terminal to send the name of the goods to be returned and the reason for returning the goods to the vendor's terminal when the buyer requests to return the goods during a cooling-off period after the transaction is completed and before the buyer pays for the goods;

10 (k) means for extending the cooling-off period;

(l) means for sending a notification to the vendor's terminal in response to an instruction indicating that the goods to be returned has been delivered to a vendor-specified retail store, the first identifier being attached by the buyer to the goods to be returned;

(m) means for accepting the second identifier received by the vendor and the first identifier attached to the goods to be returned to check to see if there is a correspondence between the identifiers; and

20 (n) means for outputting an instruction allowing the delivered goods, which will be returned, to be passed to the vendor if there is the correspondence.

22. The transaction apparatus as defined by claim 3, further comprising:

(o) means for preventing the information from being searched for using the first identifier or the second identifier

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5 when the transaction is completed.

23. The transaction apparatus as defined by claim 9,

wherein said means for sending the first identifier to the buyer's terminal also sends an instruction to pay the amount for the goods into the predetermined account, and

5 wherein said means for sending the second identifier and the part of the transaction information to the vendor's terminal receives a payment completion notification from a banking terminal at a predetermined bank in which the amount for the goods has been paid into the predetermined account under a name  
10 of the first identifier to send the payment completion notification, the second identifier, and the part of the transaction information to the vendor's terminal.

24. The transaction apparatus as defined by claim 3, wherein the first identifier received by the buyer or the second identifier received by the vendor is a printed identifier of the first identifier or the second identifier displayed on the  
5 buyer's terminal or the vendor's terminal.

25. The transaction apparatus as defined by claim 3, wherein the first identifier and/or the second identifier is a bar code.

26. A transaction program for use on a transaction apparatus, wherein the program causes a computer to execute the following steps comprising:

(a) assigning a first identifier to transaction  
5 information sent from a buyer's terminal, the transaction

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information relating to a transaction;

(b) sending the first identifier to said buyer's terminal and sending a second identifier associated with the first identifier and a part of the transaction information to  
10 a vendor's terminal;

(c) sending a notification to said buyer's terminal in response to an instruction indicating that goods, to which the second identifier is attached, have been delivered to a retail store, the goods being obtained by referencing the part of the  
15 transaction information and being sold in the transaction;

(d) checking to see if there is a correspondence between the identifiers upon receiving the first identifier received by a buyer and the second identifier attached to the delivered goods;

20 (e) outputting an instruction allowing the delivered goods to be passed to the buyer if there is the correspondence; and

(f) sending an instruction requesting to transfer an amount for the goods from a buyer's account to a predetermined  
25 account.

27. The transaction program as defined by claim 26 wherein said step of sending an instruction requesting to transfer an amount for the goods to a vendor's account sends an instruction to request to transfer the amount for the goods from an account of  
5 a retail store specified by the buyer to the vendor's account.

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28. The transaction program as defined by claim 26 wherein said step of sending an instruction requesting to transfer the amount for the goods to a vendor's account comprising:

5 sending an instruction to request to transfer the amount for the goods from an account of a delivery service provider to the vendor's account, the delivery service provider delivering the goods.

29. A transaction program for use on a transaction apparatus, wherein the program causes a computer to execute the following steps comprising:

5 (a) assigning a first identifier to transaction information sent from a buyer's terminal, the transaction information relating to a transaction;

(b) sending the first identifier to said buyer's terminal;

10 (c) sending a second identifier associated with the identifier and a part of the transaction information to a vendor's terminal;

15 (d) sending a notification to said buyer's terminal in response to an instruction indicating that goods, to which the second identifier is attached, have been delivered to a retail store, the goods being obtained by referencing the part of the transaction information and being sold in the transaction;

(e) accepting the first identifier received by a buyer and the second identifier attached to the delivered goods to

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check to see if there is a correspondence between the  
20 identifiers; and

(f) outputting an instruction allowing the delivered goods to be passed to the buyer if there is the correspondence.

30. The transaction program as defined by claim 26, wherein the program further comprises the steps of:

(g) receiving the identifier, a name of goods to be returned, and a reason for returning the goods from the buyer's  
5 terminal to send the name of the goods to be returned and the reason for returning the goods to the vendor's terminal when the buyer requests to return the goods during a cooling-off period after the transaction is completed and before the buyer pays for the goods;

10 (h) extending the cooling-off period;

(i) sending a notification to the vendor's terminal in response to an instruction indicating that the goods to be returned has been delivered to a vendor-specified retail store, the first identifier being attached by the buyer to the goods  
15 to be returned;

(j) accepting the second identifier received by the vendor and the first identifier attached to the goods to be returned to check to see if there is a correspondence between the identifiers; and

20 (k) outputting an instruction allowing the delivered goods, which will be returned, to be passed to the vendor if there

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is the correspondence.

31. The transaction program as defined by claim 26, wherein the program further comprises the steps of:

preventing the information from being searched for using the first identifier or the second identifier when the transaction is completed.

32. The transaction program as defined by claim 29,

wherein said step of sending the first identifier to the buyer's terminal comprising also sending an instruction to pay the amount for the goods into the predetermined account, and

wherein said step of sending the second identifier and the part of the transaction information to the vendor's terminal comprises receiving a payment completion notification from a banking terminal at a predetermined bank in which the amount for the goods has been paid into the predetermined account under a name of the first identifier to send the payment completion notification, the second identifier, and the part of the transaction information to the vendor's terminal.

33. The transaction program as defined by one of claim 26, wherein the first identifier received by the buyer or the second identifier received by the vendor is a printed identifier of the first identifier or the second identifier displayed on the buyer's terminal or the vendor's terminal.

34. The transaction program as defined by claim 26, wherein the first identifier received by the buyer and/or the second

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identifier received by the vendor is a bar code.

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